

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 SAJ-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 DRC-01 CAB-09

/111 W

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R 010946Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 974

INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG

ULO PEKING 316

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRN, JA, US, CH

SUBJECT: PRESS SPECULATION ON SPECIAL PRC FLIGHT TO US

1. FULSOME PRESS REPORTAGE ON SPECIAL PRC FLIGHT TO US HAS BEEN PEPPERED WITH SPECULATION ON SIGNIFICANCE OF PEKING'S DECISION TO MAKE FLIGHTS. USUALLY CITING FONOFF SOURCES, PRESS SAW SIGNIFICANCE OF FLIGHTS AS FOLLOWS:

A) FLIGHTS RELATED TO CURRENT GOJ-PRC NEGOTIATIONS IN PEKING ON AVIATION AGREEMENT. PEKING WISHED TO DEMONSTRATE ITS INTENTION AND ITS CAPABILITY OF INSTITUTING TRANSCONTINENTAL COMMERCIAL AVIATION SERVICES.

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B) IN WAKE OF KISSINGER MOSCOW VISIT, AND AS COUNTER

TO RUMOR THAT US-PRC RELATIONS WERE COOLING, PEKING
WISHED TO DEMONSTRATE SPECIAL CORDIALITY OF US-PRC
RELATIONS. AS CONCOMITANT, SPECIAL FLIGHTS INDICATE
THAT PEKING PLANS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH US ON CIVIL AVIA-
TION NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS NEGOTIATIONS WITH TOKYO
ARE COMPLETED ON SINO-JAPAN AIR LINK.

2. COMMENT: FONOFF'S RAPID RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES
ABOUT SPECIAL FLIGHT AND ACCOMPANYING INTERPRETATION
OF FLIGHTS' MEANING WERE DESIGNED TO FORESTALL POSSIBLE
PRESS SPECULATION: 1) THAT CURRENT PEKING TALKS WERE
IN TROUBLE AND 2) THAT SPECIAL FLIGHTS WERE MEANT TO
PUT PRESSURE ON GOJ IN CURRENT PEKING NEGOTIATIONS BY
SUGGESTING THAT PRC, LIKE CPA, MIGHT BE CONSIDERING
DIRECT FLIGHTS TO NORTH AMERICA IF JAPAN WERE NOT MORE
FORTHCOMING IN AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS.

SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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US Department of State
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30 JUN 2005

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